

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

ARIZONA LAW



Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, April 27, 2010, before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on oversight of the Homeland Security Department.

Read more on Page A3

SPORTS NEWS

BOBCATS SWEEP



Orlando Magic's Jameer Nelson (14) reacts after hitting a 3-point shot as teammate Rashard Lewis (9) runs past during the second half of the Magic's 99-90 win over the Charlotte Bobcats in Game 4 of a first round NBA playoff basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, April 26, 2010.

Read more on Page A13



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Snow falls on a blooming tree as a pedestrian walks under an umbrella in Montpelier, Vt., Tuesday, April 27, 2010. A late-season storm is expected to dump up to a foot of snow across the hills and mountains of northern New York and Vermont before moving east into the rest of northern New England.

Associated Press

Sachs Goldman execs deny wrongdoing in Senate grilling

MARCY GORDON
TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) — Blistered by lawmakers for "unbridled greed," Goldman Sachs executives on Tuesday unflinchingly defended their conduct and denied the huge Wall Street investment bank helped cause the near-meltdown of the nation's financial system. The hearing comes as President Barack Obama and Democratic lawmakers are trying to push through a financial regulations overhaul that they hope will win over voters ahead of November congressional elections.

Continued on Page 11



Goldman Sachs chairman and chief executive officer Lloyd Blankfein sits down to testify before the Senate Subcommittee on Investigations hearing on Wall Street investment banks and the financial crisis on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

Associated Press



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, April 22, 2010.

Associated Press

Republicans block White House-backed bill again

DAVID ESPO

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Senate Republicans, attacked for twice blocking legislation to rein in Wall Street traders, floated a partial alternative proposal Tuesday and said it could lead to election-year compromise on an issue that commands strong public support.

The 20-page outline would prohibit the use of taxpayer money to bail out failing financial giants of the future and impose federal regulation on many but not all trades of complex investments known as derivatives. It also would establish consumer protections that appear weaker than those sought by Democrats and the White House, and it would create new regulations on mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Continued on Page 4

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Congress investigating oil rig explosion

By FREDERIC J. FROMMER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—Lawmakers on Tuesday asked the owner and operator of the oil rig that exploded last week in the Gulf of Mexico for documents as part of a congressional investigation into the accident.

The chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Democratic Rep. Henry Waxman of California, and the chairman of the committee's investigations subcommittee, Democratic Rep. Bart Stupak of Michigan, made the request in letters to Transocean Ltd., the rig's owner, and to BP PLC, which operates the rig.

"A striking feature of the incident is the apparent lack of an adequate plan to contain the spreading environmental damage," the lawmakers wrote. They said they are investigating "what the companies knew about the risks of drilling at the site and

the adequacy of the companies' response plans."

Waxman and Stupak asked the companies for documents, including communications to or from senior officials, on the risk of an accident; potential responses; testing of emergency response procedures; emergency management and contingency plans; and environmental protection and response plans submitted to regulators.

Eleven people are missing and presumed dead from the explosion about 50 miles off Louisiana's coast. The explosion also caused a massive oil spill.

"We've just received Chairman Waxman's letter and will review it and respond to it in short order," said Guy Cantwell, a Transocean spokesman. "In the meantime, we remain focused on supporting our people and providing our full support to BP and the unified command," the federal agencies investigating

the explosion.

BP did not immediately return phone and e-mail messages seeking comment on the lawmakers' letters.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said they will devote every available resource to a comprehensive investigation of the explosion. The two Cabinet secretaries signed an order establishing the next steps for a joint investigation that began last week into the causes of the explosion of the drilling rig Deepwater Horizon.

The U.S. Coast Guard, as part of the DHS, and the Minerals Management Service, part of Interior, share jurisdiction for the probe. Investigators will have the power to issue subpoenas, hold public hearings, call witnesses, and take other steps that may be needed to determine the cause of the incident.

Meanwhile, BP last year joined with other oil companies



From left to right, Adrian Rose, Transocean's vice president for quality, health, safety and the environment, and David Hayes, Deputy Secretary of the Interior, listen as David Rainey, BP's vice president for Gulf of Mexico production speaks to the press about the ongoing operations surrounding the Deepwater Horizon mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) explosion, investigation, search and rescue, and pollution response, New Orleans, Thursday, April 22, 2010.

Associated Press

to oppose a proposed federal rule that would have imposed stricter safety and environmental regulations. Richard Morrison, a BP vice president, made his objection in a letter to the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service last fall. In the letter, reported Tuesday by Greenwire, Morrison

wrote: "We are not supportive of the extensive, prescriptive regulations as proposed in this rule. We believe industry's current safety and environmental statistics demonstrate that the voluntary programs" have and will continue to be successful. The rule has not yet been finalized. □



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Arizona pushes Congress into immigration minefield

LIZ SIDOTI

AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Backed into a corner by border state Arizona's tough new immigration law, Democrats and Republicans alike find themselves grappling with a volatile issue neither party wanted to fight over just before U.S. congressional elections in November.

As lawmakers learned during the last national debate on immigration, in 2007, the issue incites passions across the U.S., affecting everything from national security to states' rights to racial ambitions and resentments. It is fraught with political minefields.

Thus, President Barack Obama, the Democrats who control Congress and Republicans who are in the minority are doing a delicate dance, mindful not to anger their electoral bases — or independents — on the issue.

Underscoring the careful maneuvering, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano tried to strike a balance in testimony to Congress on Tuesday, saying, "Continually enhancing border security is not only critical for border communities, but is a necessary part of any comprehensive attempt to fix our nation's broken immigration system to make it work for the 21st century."

And, fearing potential abuse of the law, Attorney General Eric Holder, the top U.S. law enforcement official, raised "the possibility of a court challenge."

Immigration touches every rung of American politics, from security issues like border control and terrorist

profiling to domestic affairs like education and health care. American cultural issues like race, class and language also are in play. And every level of government, from federal agencies to town councils, is trying to deal with immigration issues. That means businesses, labor unions, religious groups, immigrant advocacy organizations and other interests all have a stake — and all are likely to hold candidates accountable in the elections. Republicans, hoping to make inroads with the fast-growing Hispanic population, are wary of being portrayed as xenophobic. Democrats fear the characterization that they are weak on national security. "This really sort of throws down the gauntlet for both parties," said Catherine Lee, a Rutgers University sociology professor focused on immigration reform politics. She said it's too early to say which party will benefit from immigration reform being out front. "That will depend on how the parties handle the issue and frame the debate going forward."

Already, immigration is emerging as a major issue in a slew of Republican primaries, with House, Senate and gubernatorial candidates, including Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, having to choose between a hard-line approach and a more middle-of-the-road solution. The Republicans also now face the sensitive task of figuring out how to appeal to their conservative base and tea party activists without further turning off Hispanics and other swing voters.

Brewer, in the midst of a tough Republican primary battle,

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., escorts Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, April 27, 2010, prior to her testifying before the committee's hearing on border security.

Associated Press signed a law requiring police to question people about their status if there's reason to suspect they're in the country illegally.

Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, who worked with the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, a Democrat, on reform efforts, said Tuesday that Arizona had to pass a strict law because the Obama administration has failed to "secure our borders."

McCain is facing a difficult Republican primary challenge and has adopted a hardline stance on illegal immigration. He once championed an eventual path to citizenship for the nation's 12 million illegal immigrants.

Obama, a Democrat, has instructed the Justice Department to examine the Arizona law that he said threatens to "undermine basic notions of fairness." He also has pressed anew for national immigration legislation, saying, "If we continue to fail to act at a federal level, we will continue to see misguided efforts opening up around the country."

Protests against the Arizona law erupted overnight, and the political battle lines were quickly drawn.

Conservatives applauded the measure as necessary to stop a flow of illegal immigrants from Mexico. Liberals decried it as a threat to civil rights. □



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Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., right, accompanied by fellow Republican Congressional leaders, gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 14, 2010. From left are, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl of Ariz.

Associated Press

REPUBLICAN

Continued from Front Page

The outline surfaced shortly before Senate Republicans

united for a second consecutive day to block action on White House-backed legislation designed

to prevent any recurrence of the ills that led to the economic calamity of 2008. The 57-41 vote left the measure three shy of the 60 needed to advance.

Sen. Harry Reid, leader of the Senate's majority Democrats, said he would hold additional votes later in the week, and he and other Democrats have spent days accusing Republicans of doing the bidding of the big financial firms on Wall Street.

"More than two years after the financial collapse that sparked a worldwide recession, Senate Republicans are claiming we're moving too fast," Reid said. "Two-thirds of Americans support us cracking down on big bankers' reckless risk-taking. And a majority supports

us asking banks to pay for their own funerals — that's the fund financed by the big financial firms to cover the cost of their liquidation."

The events unfolded in the Capitol as Republicans and Democrats alike spent hours at a committee hearing criticizing current and former officials at Goldman Sachs for seeking profits from the collapse of the housing market two years ago.

The Senate Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, said Democrats were going too far, coming up with a bill that "reaches into every nook and cranny of American business." Moments before the vote, his second-in-command, Sen. Jon Kyl, predicted that unlike the recent health care battle, this time bipartisan legislation eventually would pass.

The current standoff follows months of fitful bipartisan negotiations that have failed to yield agreement.

The Republican summary, obtained by The Associated Press, differs from the Democratic measure on several major points.

While banning the use of

taxpayer funds in liquidating large financial firms, it calls for the cost to be borne by creditors and shareholders. Democrats favor a fee on banks to cover those expenses.

Republicans suggested a council comprising bank regulators and independent appointees to ensure that large banks and other financial institutions do not take advantage of consumers, as opposed to a Democratic proposal for an independent agency with broader powers. Derivatives, which are complex investments that contributed to the 2008 economic collapse, would be brought under federal supervision for the first time, but not to the extent Democrats seek.

Republicans also want restrictions on government assistance to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and want the president to submit a reorganization plan. Both are essentially owned by the government, which took control when they lurched toward failure during the collapse of the housing market. □

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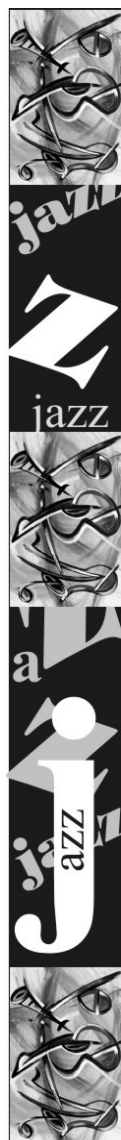
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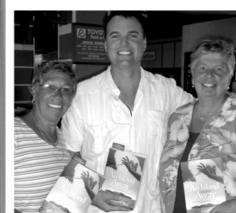
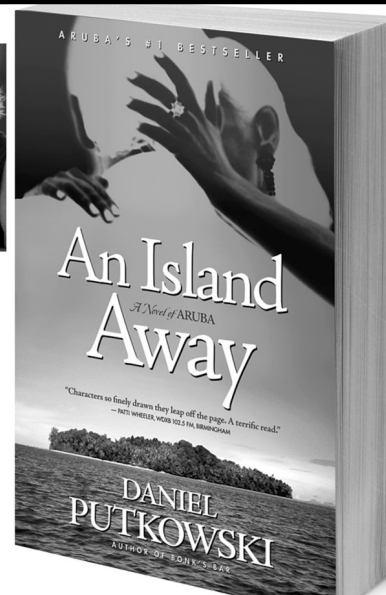
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Source: Former Air Force member claims explosives

GLENN ADAMS

Associated Press Writer

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — A former member of the U.S. Air Force on a flight from Paris to Atlanta claimed he had explosives in his luggage and a fake passport, forcing federal air marshals to intervene and the plane to be diverted to Maine on Tuesday, U.S. officials said.

The officials, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters and because the investigation was ongoing, said the man was on active duty in the Air Force until last year.

The officials would not say what rank he held or the type of discharge he received. The man claimed he had a fake passport, but the passport was authentic, they said.

There were 235 passengers and 13 crew aboard Delta Air Lines Flight 273, which landed safely just after at 3:30 p.m. EDT at Bangor International Airport, Delta spokeswoman Susan Elliott said.

Federal officials met the aircraft at the airport. The Transportation Security Administration said the passenger was being interviewed by law enforcement.

After the man was apprehended, flight attendants collected passengers' pillows and blankets, piling the cushions in the back of the plane, according to Charde

Houston, an all-star forward for the WNBA's Minnesota Lynx who was on the flight. "It was definitely surreal, something you only hear about," Houston, who was on her way to San Diego to surprise her mother before reporting to training camp, told the AP in a telephone interview.

It was not immediately clear what the significance was of the pillows being taken from passengers.

After the failed attack aboard a Detroit-bound flight on Christmas Day, for a period of time there were extra pat-downs before boarding flights, no getting up for the last hour of the flight and some passengers reported being told they couldn't have items in their laps, including laptops and pillows.

Houston, 24, said that when Tuesday's flight landed, FBI agents boarded and helped remove the suspect, who was wearing handcuffs.

"He looked extremely calm, like a blank face. No emotion," Houston said of the man who was removed.

NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, did not launch any military fighters in response to the flight, spokesman John Cornelio said.

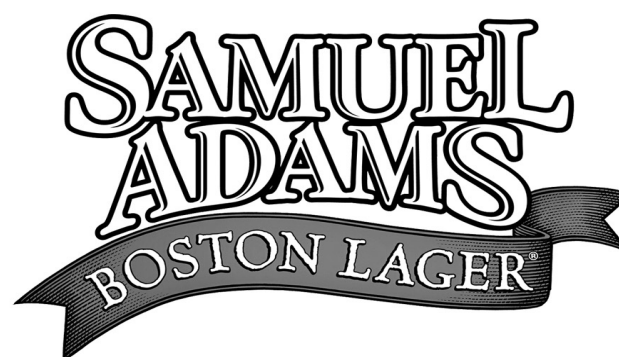
"By the time we were brought into the equation," the passenger was already under the control of air marshals, Cornelio said from Colorado. All passengers were taken

off the plane because it was an international flight and they needed to clear customs, said Rebecca Hupp, airport director. □



People walk out of this Delta Air Lines Flight from Paris to Atlanta which was diverted to Bangor International Airport in Bangor, Maine Tuesday April 27, 2010.

Associated Press



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Panama's ex-dictator Noriega jailed in France



In this image from video from WSVN-TV, former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, wearing hat, right, arrives at Miami International Airport in Miami to board an Air France flight to Paris on Monday, April 26, 2010.

PIERRE-ANTOINE SOUCHARD

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP)—A French judge ordered former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega jailed Tuesday pending a trial for money laundering, a decision

made only hours after Noriega was extradited from the United States following two decades in a Miami prison.

His arrival in France opens up a whole new legal battle for the strongman, who was deposed after a 1989 U.S. invasion and

went on to spend 20 years in prison for drug trafficking. After finishing his U.S. sentence, Noriega was extradited from Miami and arrived Tuesday in Paris, where he was immediately served with an arrest warrant. Hours later, he went before a French judge and pleaded to be sent home to Panama, citing his prisoner of war status. Noriega spoke little during the hearing and appeared tired. Wearing a white button-up shirt and black jacket, his black hair thinning, he periodically rested his head in one hand during the proceedings.

The judge denied Noriega's request, saying he posed a flight risk if released. The judge ordered Noriega jailed in Paris' La Sante prison pending further judicial action. Noriega was escorted out a side door of the court by

armed guards.

His lawyers said they would appeal the decision.

Noriega could face another 10 years in prison in France if convicted on charges that he laundered \$7 million in drug profits through French banks and purchasing luxury apartments with his wife in Paris.

Noriega has already been convicted in France on the charges, but in absentia. France has agreed to give him a new trial if he was extradited.

French Justice Ministry spokesman Guillaume Didier said Noriega could face a new trial within two months.

Noriega's French lawyers say his detention and transfer are unlawful.

Panama also has an outstanding request for the former dictator's extradition. He was convicted in Panama in absentia and sentenced to 60 years in prison on charges of embezzlement, corruption and murdering opponents.

Noriega was Panama's longtime intelligence chief before he took power in 1982. He had been considered a valued CIA asset for years,

but as a ruler he joined forces with drug traffickers and was implicated in the death of a political opponent.

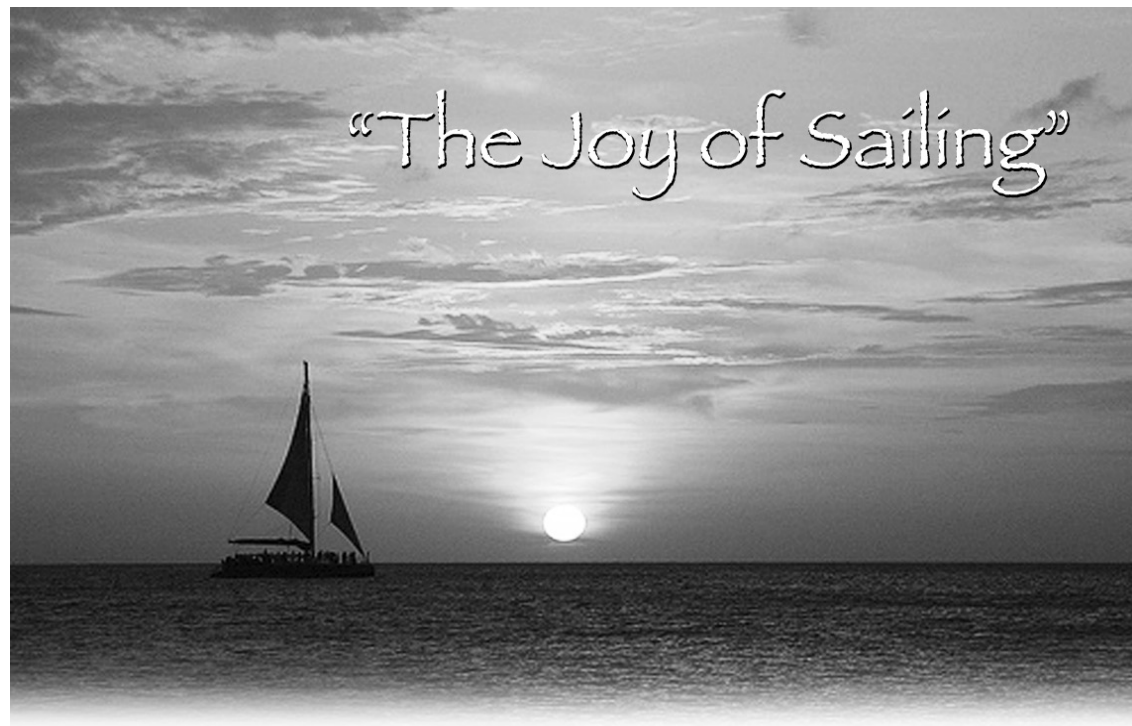
Noriega was ousted as Panama's leader and put on trial following a U.S. military invasion ordered by President George H.W. Bush.

Noriega was brought to Miami and was convicted of drug racketeering and related charges in 1992.

He finished serving his term in federal prison outside Miami in 2007, but stayed in prison while France sought his extradition.

Noriega came to France after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton signed a surrender warrant Monday. A federal judge in Miami lifted a stay blocking his extradition last month.

If Noriega had been released in France, it would have been a major victory after a generation behind bars. It could also be an awkward situation for France, where a string of former dictators from Haiti to West Africa have settled in the past, sometimes in luxurious homes purchased with money of dubious origin.



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Woman tops 14 highest peaks for 1st time: official

BINAJ GURUBACHARYA

Associated Press Writer

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) —

A South Korean mountaineer became the first woman to scale the world's 14 highest mountains, officials said, crawling on all fours Tuesday as she reached the last summit.

Oh Eun-sun, 44, arrived at the final, steep stretch of Annapurna in the Himalayas 13 hours after she left the last camp to beat a Spanish rival to the record. Her feat was broadcast live in South Korea by KBS television.

At the top, she pulled out a South Korean flag, waved, and then wept before throwing up her arms and shouting, "Victory!"

Officials said Annapurna was the last of the 14 peaks above 26,247 feet (8,000 meters) Oh needed to climb to set the mark. She reached the summit — 26,545 feet (8,091 meters) above sea level — 13 years after she scaled her

first Himalayan mountain, Gasherbrum II, in 1997. She scaled Everest in 2004.

Oh's rival, Edurne Pasaban of Spain, has questioned whether she summited all of the 14, but the Nepal Mountaineering Association said the South Korean deserved the title.

"Werecognizeherachievement as the first woman climber to scale all the highest mountains in the world. We are all happy and proud of her achievement," said Ang Tshering, president of the association, which governs climbing in this Himalayan nation, home to several of the highest peaks. The mountain in dispute is partially in Nepal.

After reaching Annapurna earlier this month, Pasaban, 26, has only the 26,330-foot-high (8,027-meter-high) Mount Shisha Pangma left on her list.

The whole team was in good health and was making its way down to the base camp, expedition coordinator Song Hea-kyong said in the

Nepalese capital. They were expected back in Katmandu by the weekend, Song said.

Oh also tried to summit Annapurna last year but turned away just hundreds of yards (meters) from the top because of bad weather. Snow and wind also stopped her from making the trek last weekend.

"I gave it up because of a sudden ominous feeling that something bad would happen to either me or my peers, including the sherpas, on my way back to base camp," she told The Korea Times newspaper last month.

She said this trip would be different, adding that she would be carrying a photograph of Ko Mi-young, a lifelong rival who fell to her death last year while descending from Nanga Parbat, the world's ninth-highest peak.

On Tuesday, KBS footage showed Oh breathing heavily after each step in minus-20 Fahrenheit (minus-29 Celsius) temperatures on snowy

Annapurna.

"I'm so happy, and I would like to share this joy with the South Korean people," said an emotional Oh, murmuring, "Thank you, thank you."

President Lee Myung-bak sent a congratulatory message, saying South Koreans were "awakened to her great spirits of challenge," according to his office.

"She is really great and I'm proud of her," he said.

Oh's quest has met with some controversy, after Pasaban publicly questioned whether she had in fact summited Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest peak. Photos taken of that trek did not clearly prove she had reached the top. She dismissed the criticism.

"I can say that I have stood at the summit of Mount Kanchenjunga," she told reporters in Seoul late last year, according to Yonhap news agency. "It was bad weather. Three sherpas told



In this photo taken Friday, March 5, 2010, South Korean climber Oh Eun-sun smiles during a press conference before leaving for Nepal, in Seoul, South Korea. On Tuesday, April 27, 2010, Oh made history in the Himalayas by becoming the first woman to scale the world's 14 highest mountains, beating a Spanish rival for the record.

Associated Press

me that I reached the top, and one of them took the picture." Oh has described mountain climbing as an addiction. □



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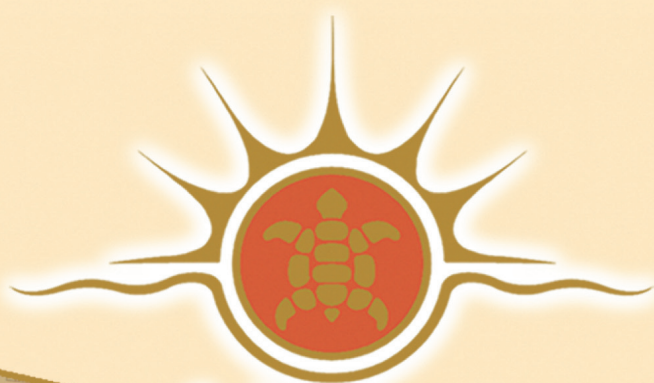
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Lawmakers brawl in Ukraine over pro-Russia measure

ANNA MELNICHUK
Associated Press Writer

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — The speaker of Ukraine's parliament huddled under umbrellas as eggs rained down and smoke bombs filled the chamber with an acrid cloud.

Then the lawmakers attacked each other, punching and brawling in the aisles. The chaos erupted Tuesday as parliament approved a treaty allowing Russia to extend the lease on a naval base in a Ukrainian port on



Ukrainian opposition and pro-presidential lawmakers fight against each other during ratification of the Black Sea Fleet deal with Russia, in parliament in Kiev, Ukraine, Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Ukraine's parliament has voted to extend Russia's lease of a Crimean naval port for the Black Sea Fleet in a chaotic session during which eggs and smoke bombs were thrown. The countries' presidents agreed last week to extend the Russian navy's use of the Sevastopol port for another 25 years after the old lease expires in 2017.

Associated Press

the Black Sea until 2042 — a move bitterly opposed by pro-Western lawmakers. Ukraine would get cheap natural gas from Russia in exchange. Russia's influence in Ukraine has surged since the February election victory of pro-Kremlin President Viktor Yanukovich, infuriating Ukrainians who resent Moscow's influence and inflaming the violent passions that plague the politics of the former Soviet republic. The controversy over the home port for the Russian Black Sea Fleet has been one of the

most emotionally charged consequences of the breakup of the Soviet Union. After the Soviet collapse, Russia found one of its major fleets based in a foreign country's port — Sevastopol, on the Crimean peninsula that extends from mainland Ukraine into the Black Sea, about 200 miles from the nearest Russian territory. Ukrainian nationalists who resented Moscow's long dominance of their land regarded the Russian fleet's presence as tantamount to

military occupation. Former President Viktor Yushchenko, who tilted toward the West, had vowed that the fleet's lease of the port would not be renewed when it expired in 2017. Yanukovich and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev agreed last week that the lease would be extended for 25 years past that expiration. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin discussed the matter Monday in Kiev with Yanukovich.

As parliament speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn opened Tuesday's legislative session, opposition members threw eggs at him, forcing him to preside behind two black umbrellas held by aides.

Opposition lawmakers draped a huge Ukrainian flag over their seats, a signal they would abstain from voting.

Lytvyn defiantly forged ahead amid the falling eggs, calling lawmakers to the stand to make their case on the Black Sea Fleet deal.

About seven minutes into the session, a smoke bomb went off underneath the draped flag and another was hurled from the back of the gallery. The chamber filled with an acrid cloud as smoke alarms went off — unprecedented scenes in the parliament. □

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In this April 26, 2010, photo, a medic helps a man wounded in a blast in Kandahar city, south of Kabul.

Associated Press

DEB RIECHMANN
NOOR KHAN

Associated Press Writers

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — The powerful half brother of President Hamid Karzai urged the international aid community not to pull out of the troubled southern city of Kandahar, where insurgents attacked Tuesday night, killing at least three and

Insurgents attack in Kandahar in south Afghanistan

injuring dozens.

Kandahar Police Chief Sher Mohammed Zazai said militants detonated explosives near the city in an attack targeting a compound providing logistical support to NATO forces.

He said at least three people were killed about one mile (two kilometers) from Kandahar Air Field. Hospital workers said at least 35 others were injured.

There were conflicting casualty reports. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf said one suicide bomber and two armed insurgents killed 15 people and wounded 60 others and burned eight oil tankers on the site. Zulmai Ayubi, a spokesman for the Kandahar provincial governor, put the death toll at four and said 30 were injured.

Kandahar is the site of a planned offensive by Afghan and NATO forces to clear the city of Taliban fighters and break the grip of warlords who have allowed the militants to

slip back in. President Barack Obama has ordered 30,000 more troops into Afghanistan, in part to back up the Kandahar offensive, but the Taliban have launched increasingly deadly attacks ahead of the offensive. On Monday, the United Nations announced that it had relocated several foreign employees from Kandahar to Kabul and told more than 200 Afghan workers to stay home. The announcement came hours after three bombings — one targeting a local police official — shook the city.

“We are not facing a big threat,” said Ahmad Wali Karzai, the president’s half brother and a top official in Kandahar province. He added that the security situation was far worse a few years ago.

“You get one or two incidents once or twice a week,” he told The Associated Press. “That shouldn’t be a concern. A suicide attack can happen anywhere.”

Later, Karzai told reporters in Kandahar that pulling out of

the city plays into the Taliban’s hands and would affect humanitarian assistance.

Since April 12, at least 20 civilians, including eight children, have been killed in Kandahar, according to an AP count. Local officials, aid workers and contractors for U.S. development projects have been targeted by Taliban fighters trying to disrupt the upcoming military operation, expected to accelerate this summer.

A senior Western official familiar with U.N. operations said 16 U.N. workers based in Kandahar were moved to a more heavily secured compound Sunday night before going to Kabul and perhaps other destinations. The official spoke anonymously because the information had not been publicly released by the United Nations.

The U.N. has been on the defensive in Afghanistan since October, when three suicide attackers stormed a Kabul residence where dozens

of staffers lived. Five U.N. employees and three Afghan citizens were killed in a two-hour siege.

After that attack, the U.N. sent about 600 of its 1,100 foreign staffers either out of the country or relocated them to safer quarters. Many eventually were recalled to Kabul; others chose not to renew their contracts or terminated their tours in Afghanistan early.

The U.N. had previously used only Afghan police officers to protect most staff living quarters. Since then, it has added international armed guards to all its buildings.

The Afghan government on Tuesday renounced a U.N. report that said friendly fire from Afghan security forces may have killed four of the five U.N. staffers that died during the assault.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said a separate investigation by the Afghan government and the European Union police mission reached another conclusion. □

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'Peanuts' gang sold to Joe Boxer owner for \$175M



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By EMILY FREDRIX,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — You've got a new owner, Charlie Brown. Newspaper publisher E.W. Scripps Co. is selling licensing rights for Snoopy, Charlie Brown and the rest of the "Peanuts" gang to Iconix Brand Group Inc., the licensing company that owns Joe Boxer and London Fog. The family of the late "Peanuts"

creator Charles Schulz will also own part of the business too, giving it more control of and money from the comic strip's legacy. Heirs say the deal announced Tuesday for the 60-year-old comic strip is what the artist would have wanted. Schulz worked for decades to win back the rights to his work, which many other artists like himself sold to appear in print.

Scripps will sell its licensing unit, which also represents characters such as Dilbert and Raggedy Ann and Andy, to Iconix for \$175 million. The bulk of revenue generated by United Media Licensing comes from the "Peanuts" franchise.

Iconix will form a partnership with Schulz' family, who will receive 20 percent ownership in the unit that owns "Peanuts" and pay that percentage of the sale price.

Craig Schulz, one of the late artists' five children, said the family is relieved to win an ownership interest.

At the time of his death in 2000, Schulz had approval over all business deals and the use of art, which his family maintains. But now, they can craft their own proposals and shape the legacy of "Peanuts," said Barbara Gallagher, a lawyer for the Schulz family. The family could potentially earn more money as well, and already earns a "significant

revenue stream" each year from "Peanuts."

Scripps first brought the strip to market in 1950 and owned the rights. "They were simply like an actor in a play," Schulz said of cartoonists from the era. "You did your part and everything else you had to give up totally, and that's the way the world was." His father fought for years to get the rights back, even threatening to quit until he was given more business and artistic control, said the younger Schulz from Santa Rosa, Calif., where the family's business is run.

By the time Schulz retired in 1999, "Peanuts" was in more than 2,600 papers around the world and its cast of characters appeared everywhere, from T-shirts to greeting cards and sno-cone machines.

No new comics have been drawn for a decade, according to Schulz' wishes, but the licensing business is alive and well. Some 20,000 new products are approved

each year in more than 40 countries. The business has more than 1,200 licensing agreements and relationships with companies and retailers such as Warner Bros., Old Navy, CVS, MetLife Inc. and Hallmark Co.

The unit's licensed merchandise has annual sales of more than \$2 billion, but the owners of the licenses receive a fraction of that. In 2009, revenue of the unit fell 10 percent to nearly \$92 million. That figure includes United Media's syndication operations, which Scripps will still own, meaning it will still syndicate comic strips and editorial features.

Scripps said the cash deal will close by the end of the second quarter.

Iconix said it expects "Peanuts" to generate about \$75 million in annual royalty revenue and noted an existing revenue split with the Schulz family will remain, separate from the new 20 percent arrangement. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

GOLDMAN

Continued from Front Page

The legislation would crack down on the kind of lightly regulated housing market investments that helped set off the crisis in 2007.

Through hours of testimony to a Senate investigative subcommittee, present and former Goldman officials disputed, sometimes testily, the Securities and Exchange Commission's recent fraud allegations against the company.

They strongly denied that the firm cashed in on the housing crash by crafting a strategy to bet against home loan securities while misleading its own investors.

"I will defend myself in court against this false claim," said Fabrice Tourre, a French-born 31-year-old Goldman trader who, along with the firm, was charged with civil fraud by the SEC. "I deny — categorically — the SEC's allegation."

Investors seemed unimpressed by the tough talk at the Capitol: Goldman's stock rose \$1.01 per share, to \$153.04, on Tuesday, a day in which the Dow Jones industrials had their worst drop in nearly three months, down 213 points.

At the hearing, senators from both parties verbally pounded the Goldman executives, accusing them of financial gambling that helped nearly derail the entire U.S. economy.

"As we speak, lobbyists fill the halls of Congress, hoping to weaken or kill legislation aimed at reforming these abuses," said Sen. Carl Levin, the panel's chairman. "Wall Street is on the wrong side of this fight."

Levin accused Wall Street firms of selling securities they wouldn't invest in themselves. That's "unbridled greed in the absence of the cop on the beat to control it," he said.

At least in Las Vegas, said Sen. John Ensign, a Nevada

Republican, "people know the odds are against them. They play anyway. On Wall Street, they manipulate the odds while you're playing the game."

The SEC says Tourre marketed securities without telling buyers they had been chosen with help from a Goldman hedge fund client that was betting the investments would fail.

The commission alleged that Tourre told investors the hedge fund, Paulson & Co., actually bought into the investments.

Tourre said he didn't recall telling investors that.

Hour after hour, the executives stood their ground, rejecting accusations that Goldman helped fuel the financial crisis that plunged the country into recession, only acknowledging bad business judgments.

"We did not cause the financial crisis. ... I do not think that we did anything wrong," said Michael Swenson, who runs Goldman's structured products group trading.

Tourre said: "I am saddened and humbled by what happened in the market in 2007 and 2008. ... But I believe my conduct was proper."

At times, the senators and the hearing's witnesses, who have long marketed complex mortgage investments like collateralized debt obligations, seemed to struggle to explain themselves to the other side. The senators cast Goldman's efforts to bet against securities as a contributor to the crisis. By contrast, the Goldman officials described their use of such trading tools as a way to reduce risks for the company and its clients.

In a brash January 2007 e-mail, Tourre had called himself "The fabulous Fab ... standing in the middle of all these complex ... exotic trades" that he had created "without necessarily understanding all of the implications of those monstrosities!!!"

Tourre told the panel: "I regret



Goldman Sachs executives, from left: Daniel Sparks, former partner, Head of Mortgages Department; Michael J. Swenson, managing director, Structured Products Group Trading; Joshua S. Birnbaum, former managing director, Structured Products Group Trading; Fabrice Tourre, Executive Director, Structured Products Group Trading; are sworn in on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, April 27, 2010, prior to testifying before the Senate Investigations subcommittee hearing on Wall Street investment banks and the financial crisis.

Associated Press

the e-mails. They reflect very bad on the firm and myself. I wish I hadn't sent them."

At one point, about a half dozen protesters entered the committee room, dressed in prison stripes with names on signs around their necks of Tourre and Goldman CEO Lloyd Blankfein, who was scheduled to testify late in the day.

"Fabulous Fab is not so fab when he takes from the poor," the protesters spoke as a chorus before the hearing started. "We want to see these guys behind bars." They quietly hissed at times during the testimony.

When the first panel of Goldman officials got up to leave, one of the protesters ran toward them and shouted questions.

"You have no ethics, Fab," the protester said. They later were taken out of the room by a Capitol Police officer.

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, the top Republican on the panel, said Goldman officials were "celebrating the collapse of the housing market when the reality for millions of Americans is loss of homes and disappearing jobs."

Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican, said that while there may not be proof that Goldman did anything illegal, a reading of e-mails from

Goldman officials bragging about profiting from bets against the housing market showed "there's no doubt their behavior was unethical and the people will render a judgment as well as courts."

Levin pressed Daniel Sparks, the former head of Goldman's mortgages department, on whether the company felt it had a moral obligation to disclose to clients that it was making side bets against the same investments it was selling them.

Sparks said clients "should look at the assets themselves" that make up the mortgage-based securities they are buying. "Clients who did not want to participate in that deal did not," he said of one particular transaction.

Levin shot back: "I don't think you want to answer. You're not going to answer the question, it's obvious."

Levin also asked Sparks about a \$1 billion product called Timberwolf that Goldman sold to investors while betting against it. Levin cited an e-mail sent to Sparks from another Goldman executive using an expletive to describe Timberwolf as "one s---y deal."

"Your top priority is to sell that s---y deal," Levin said. "Come on, Mr. Sparks, should

Goldman Sachs be trying to sell a s---y deal?"

"I didn't use that term," the Goldman executive responded.

Blankfein, Goldman's CEO, said in his prepared testimony that Goldman didn't bet against its clients — and can't survive without their trust.

Blankfein repeated the company's assertion that it lost \$1.2 billion in the residential mortgage meltdown in 2007 and 2008 that touched off the financial crisis and a severe recession.

He also argued that Goldman wasn't making an aggressive negative bet — or short — on the mortgage market's meltdown.

"We didn't have a massive short against the housing market, and we certainly did not bet against our clients," Blankfein said. "Rather, we believe that we managed our risk as our shareholders and our regulators would expect." Goldman has fought back against the fraud charges with a public relations blitz aimed at discrediting the SEC's case and repairing the bank's reputation.

Some big clients are publicly backing the firm. But its stock has yet to recover from the fall that followed the SEC lawsuit on April 16. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NHL Playoffs

Bruins beat Sabres 4-3 to win series in 6 games

BOSTON (AP) — David Krejci had two goals and one assist to lead Boston to a 4-3 victory over the Buffalo Sabres in Game 6 of their first-round playoff series on Monday night and put the Bruins in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Tuukka Rask stopped 27 shots for Boston, which will play either Philadelphia or Pittsburgh in the second round.

It is Boston's second playoff series victory — and first at home — since 1999.

Buffalo, which missed the playoffs in each of the past two seasons, has not advanced since reaching the conference semifinals in 2006 and '07.

Mark Recchi had a goal and an assist, and Miroslav Satan also scored for the Bruins.

Ryan Miller made 28 saves for Buffalo.

Patrick Kaleta and Nathan Gerbe scored for the Sabres, and Thomas Vanek made it 4-3 with 1:13 left after the goalie was pulled for an extra skater.

Blackhawks 5, Predators 3



Buffalo Sabres left wing Thomas Vanek (26) skates away as Boston Bruins players celebrates Miroslav Satan's goal in the third period of Game 6 in their NHL hockey playoff series in Boston Monday, April 26, 2010. Satan's goal proved to be the game-winner as the Bruins won 4-3 to win the series.

Associated Press

At Nashville, Jonathan Toews scored a power-play goal to cap a wild first period and Chicago held on to eliminate the Predators and advance

to the Western Conference semifinals for the second straight year.

The Blackhawks won the final three games of the series,

setting up a second-round matchup with the Vancouver Canucks for the second consecutive season. Nashville has been eliminated in all five of its postseason appearances on home ice.

Chicago led 4-3 going into the third, where Nashville outshot the Blackhawks 15-3. Rookie goalie Antti Niemi stopped Martin Erat in front with 85 seconds left. Nashville pulled goalie Pekka Rinne with 1:15 remaining, but John Madden scored an empty netter with 7.8 seconds left to seal the victory.

Toews also had an assist. Duncan Keith and Patrick Sharp each had a goal and an assist, and Patrick Kane had a goal. Marian Hossa added two assists.

Jason Arnott scored two goals, his only tallies of the series, and Shea Weber had a goal for Nashville.

Canadiens 4, Capitals 1

At Montreal, Jaroslav Halak made 53 saves, and Michael Cammalleri scored twice in the first period for eighth-seeded Montreal, which

stayed alive with a victory over Washington and forced a Game 7 in the first-round series.

Halak made 18 saves in the first, 15 in the second, and 19 in the third. He came within 4:50 of his first playoff shutout. Halak won his second straight start despite the top-seeded Capitals' 54-22 advantage in shots.

Cammalleri put the Canadiens up 1-0 with a power-play goal 7:30 in. He added his second of the game — fifth of the series — at 9:09 to increase the lead to 2-0.

Maxim Lapierre drove a slap shot past Semyon Varlamov from the right side for Montreal's third goal 3:17 into the third. Tomas Plekanec scored into an empty net with 56.5 seconds remaining.

Eric Fehr scored his third goal at 15:10 on Washington's 52nd shot to spoil Halak's shutout bid. It wasn't enough for the Capitals, who had led the series 3-1.

Game 7 is Wednesday night at Washington. □



St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina (4) steals second as Atlanta Braves second baseman Martin Prado (14) misplays the ball during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 26, 2010 in St. Louis. The Cardinals beat the Braves 4-3.

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Yadier Molina's RBI double snapped an eighth-inning deadlock and Colby Rasmus homered in St. Louis' 4-3 victory over Atlanta

on Monday night, the Braves' sixth straight loss.

Troy Glaus had two hits and an RBI for the Braves, who have been outscored 23-9

NL Roundup

Molina, Cardinals beat slumping Braves 4-3

during their worst slump since dropping six straight to end 2009.

Albert Pujols had three hits and an RBI for the Cardinals, who have won the opener in all but one of seven series. Pujols had a run-scoring groundout in the sixth and doubled off Takashi Saito (0-1) to open the eighth. Dennys Reyes (2-0) worked around two two-out walks in the eighth. Ryan Franklin finished for his seventh save

in seven chances.

Rasmus had two hits and an intentional walk after going 1 for 18 at home to open the season. He is 12 for 26 during a seven-game hitting streak after hitting his sixth homer to open the seventh.

At Chicago, Aramis Ramirez walked with the bases loaded in the 10th inning to give Chicago its fourth straight win.

Ryan Theriot, coming off

a five-hit game against Milwaukee on Sunday, started the winning rally with a leadoff single against Brian Bruney (1-1). Derrek Lee walked with one out before Marlon Byrd blooped a single for his third hit. That loaded the bases for Ramirez, who walked on four pitches and became the third player — and second Cub — to walk with the bases loaded in the game.

Continued on Page 14

NBA Playoffs

Magic beat Bobcats 99-90 to complete sweep

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Vince Carter scored 21 points and Jameer Nelson added 18 as the Orlando Magic showcased their depth and pressure shot-making in a 99-90 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday night to complete a sweep of their first-round series.

Dwight Howard was held to six points in his fourth straight game in foul trouble, but the Magic never flinched to accomplish their first four-game sweep in club history. Orlando will face the Atlanta-Milwaukee winner in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Tyrus Thomas scored a career playoff-high 21 points for the Bobcats, whose focus will now

almost immediately turn to nomadic coach Larry Brown's future with the team.

Rashard Lewis scored 17 points, Matt Barnes added 14 and Orlando held Stephen Jackson to 2-of-11 shooting to make sure Charlotte would be the only team not to win a first-round game.

Bucks 111, Hawks 104

At Milwaukee, Carlos Delfino scored 22 points with six 3-pointers and Milwaukee pulled off its second straight playoff surprise, beating Atlanta to level the first-round series.

Brandon Jennings scored 23 points and John Salmons added 22 for the Bucks, who survived a fourth-quarter surge led by Atlanta stars Joe

Johnson and Josh Smith. Now the Hawks head home for Game 5, desperately needing a win to stave off a surprising challenge by a team missing its best player, injured center Andrew Bogut.

Johnson scored 29 points, reserve Jamal Crawford had 21, and Smith had 20 points and nine rebounds.

Suns 107, Trail Blazers 88

At Phoenix, Channing Frye and Jared Dudley broke out of their series-long shooting slumps with 20 and 19 points, respectively, as the Suns overcame an early 14-point deficit to beat Portland and take a 3-2 lead in its first-round playoff series.

Phoenix can advance to the



Charlotte Bobcats' Gerald Wallace (3) reacts after being fouled by Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard (12) during the second half of the Magic's 99-90 win in Game 4 of a first-round NBA playoff basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, April 26, 2010.

Associated Press

second round by beating the Blazers in Portland on Thursday night. Amare Stoudemire scored 19, and Steve Nash had 14 points and 10 assists for Phoenix. Andre Miller scored 21, while LaMarcus Aldridge and Jerryd Bayless had 17 apiece for the Trail Blazers. □

Baseball fights to return to Olympics

MICHAEL CASEY

AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Baseball needs to shed its image as a mainly American sport in order to win back a spot at the Olympics, according to the sport's international federation president.

Riccardo Fraccari said Tuesday that baseball must rebrand itself as an international game, and that he sees great potential to expand in parts of Europe as well as Africa and the Middle East, where Iraq and Iran have approached him about investing in the sport.

"The message you have to give to people is that baseball is a global sport, not American," Fraccari told The Associated Press on the sidelines of the SportAccord International Convention in Dubai. "This was the mistake made in the past."

Fraccari also said he will work with softball to team up on a joint bid in 2013 to get back into the Olympics. Baseball and softball were dropped from the Olympic program after the 2008 Beijing Games.

Fraccari, an Italian who became president of the International Baseball Federation in December, said his top priority is returning baseball to the Olympics. He acknowledged that baseball is far more developed in the United States than elsewhere, but pointed to thriving leagues in Latin America, Japan and other parts of Asia as a sign that it is "a very global sport."

"Many times when people approach me, they talk as if it's an American sport," he said. "It's not true."

In 2005, softball and baseball became the first sports in 69 years to be voted out of the Olympics. Both lost appeals for reinstatement in 2006 and then set their sights on this year's vote to get back on the program for 2016.

Instead, International Olympic leaders voted to add golf and rugby to the 2016 Games, while softball, baseball and three other sports were left out.

At the time, then International Baseball Federation president Harvey Schiller expressed disappointment that softball had distanced itself from baseball following the 2005 vote, rejecting an offer of a joint Olympic bid. Instead, softball mounted a campaign to plant seeds for the sport in places like the Middle East and Africa and touted its clean doping record.

But that could be changing. With only one sport expected to be added in 2013, the International Softball Federation President Don Porter said his organization was "exploring the possibility" of a joint bid with baseball, though he said no decision has been taken. The issue is expected to be on the agenda when officials from the two federations meet this week at the SportAccord.

After being dropped from the Olympics, baseball has focused on ramping up interest in the World Baseball Classic and the baseball World Cup. Many of the games in the 22-team World Cup were played in Europe, which Fraccari sees as the next big market for the sport.

"If you look at Europe, it is a big potential market," he said. "There is money. There are good organizations and a strong mentality of sport."

Fraccari said Iran and Iraq have approached him about starting baseball programs, and he said many other Middle Eastern countries also offer potential because they have good weather, American influence and available land.

"I think we have the opportunity to develop baseball there," he said. □

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AL Roundup

Varitek's 4 RBIs help Red Sox edge Blue Jays 13-12

TORONTO (AP) — Jason Varitek had four RBIs and Marco Scutaro scored a career-high four runs as Boston held off Toronto for a 13-12 win Monday night.

Varitek went 3 for 5 with two two-run singles and Scutaro went 3 for 5 with a walk against his former team, which set a season high in runs, and with 18 hits.

Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer and Lyle Overbay went 3 for 5 with a solo homer and four RBIs.

Scott Schoeneweis (1-0) got one out for the win and Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth for his sixth save, ending the game after 4 hours, 3 minutes.

Shawn Camp (1-1) allowed three runs and four hits in 1 2-3 innings.

Josh Beckett, who had a 6.62 ERA in 12 career starts against Toronto, allowed eight runs and nine hits in three-plus innings, while Toronto's Dana Eveland allowed seven runs and eight hits in three-plus innings.

Tigers 8, Rangers 6

At Arlington, Miguel Cabrera and Brandon Inge hit back-to-back homers in the ninth for Detroit, which blew a five-run lead.

Cabrera's tiebreaking homer off Neftali Feliz (1-1) landed in the Texas bullpen in right-center. Inge followed with his second homer of the game.

Inge's two-run shot in the fifth, his first of the season, put Detroit up 6-1.

Phil Coke (3-0), the third Tigers pitcher, worked 1 2-3 shutout innings before Jose Valverde pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save in seven chances.

Coke took over with one out in the seventh after the Rangers had loaded the bases off Joel Zumaya. The left-hander struck out Josh Hamilton on three pitches before giving up a two-run single to Vladimir Guerrero that tied it at 6. Detroit led 4-0 after the first four batters of the game reached and scored off Matt Harrison.

Royals 3, Mariners 1

At Kansas City, Kyle Davies allowed only one infield single in six dominant innings as Kansas City handed Felix Hernandez his first loss in 10 decisions.

Billy Butler homered leading off the seventh against Hernandez (2-1), who had won nine consecutive decisions since losing to Cleveland last Aug. 23. In seven innings, he gave up three runs — two earned — with three walks and seven strikeouts.

Davies (2-1) walked three and struck out five before turning a 2-0 lead over to the bullpen starting the seventh.

Kansas City's much-maligned bullpen preserved the shutout until former Royal Mike Sweeney's pinch-hit RBI single off Kyle Farnsworth with two outs in the ninth. Bruce Chen came in and got his first career save when Ichiro Suzuki flied out.

At Anaheim, Erick Aybar hit



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Josh Beckett pitches to the Toronto Blue Jays during the second inning of a baseball game on Monday April 26, 2010, in Toronto.

Associated Press

Marlins 10, Padres 1

At Miami, Josh Johnson pitched a three-hitter, had a career-high 12 strikeouts and drove in three runs for Florida.

Dan Uggla homered and drove in three runs for the Marlins. Hanley Ramirez also homered.

Johnson (2-1) walked one and threw 117 pitches in his fourth career complete game, his first since June 14, 2009.

The three-hitter was a career best.

Johnson went 3 for 4. He singled home a run in the second and added a two-run single in the third.

San Diego's run came on a sacrifice fly by pinch-hitter Matt Stairs in the eighth. The Padres lost their second game in a row after winning eight straight.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3

At Denver, Dan Haren struck out a season-high 10 and Adam LaRoche homered for Arizona.

Carlos Gonzalez homered and drove in both runs for Colorado, which nearly rallied in the ninth off closer Chad Qualls. With two outs Ian

Stewart drove in Todd Helton from second, but Qualls struck out pinch-hitter Jason Giambi with two on for his fifth save in seven chances.

Rockies starter Jason Hammel (0-2) left the game after three innings with a strained right groin.

Brewers 17, Pirates 3

At Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo pitched six strong innings and drove in three runs and Gregg Zaun matched career highs with four hits and five RBIs as Milwaukee extended its mastery of Pittsburgh.

Casey McGehee added a grand slam in a nine-run eighth inning that also included a two-run homer by Alcides Escobar and a two-run double by Zaun.

The Brewers have outscored the Pirates 53-4 in their last four meetings, including a three-game sweep in Pittsburgh last week when Milwaukee outscored the Pirates 36-1 — including a 20-0 rout.

It was the seventh straight defeat for the Pirates who have lost to the Brewers 22 straight times at Miller Park and are 12-37 against Milwaukee

his first leadoff homer and Bobby Abreu added a two-run shot, leading Jered Weaver and the Los Angeles Angels to victory over Cleveland.

Weaver (3-0) allowed a run and seven hits in six innings, striking out seven and walking one. It's the first time the right-hander has won his first three decisions since 2006, when he joined Livan Hernandez and Hall of Famer Whitey Ford as the only pitchers to go 9-0 in their first 12 big league starts. Angels designated hitter Hideki Matsui singled in the fifth for his 1,000th hit in the majors, lining a 2-2 pitch to right field. His first career hit was an RBI single against Roy Halladay in his first big league at-bat on March 31, 2003, with the New York Yankees at Toronto.

In other AL games it was, Boston 13, Toronto 12; Detroit 8, Texas 6; Kansas City 3, Seattle 1; and L.A. Angels 5, Cleveland 2. □

overall since 2007.

The Brewers' home winning streak against Pittsburgh is the longest by one team over another since Cleveland beat the St. Louis Browns/Baltimore Orioles 27 consecutive times from 1952-54.

Gallardo (2-2) gave up two runs, none earned, and five hits in six innings. Zach Duke (2-2) took the loss, allowing eight earned runs and nine hits in four innings.

Giants 5, Phillies 1

At San Francisco, Eli Whiteside homered and doubled in a run and Jonathan Sanchez struck out six as the Giants handed Roy Halladay his first loss since joining the Phillies in a four-team trade.

Ryan Howard went 0 for 3 with a strikeout and walk hours after he agreed to a \$125 million, five-year contract extension.

In other NL games it was, Florida 10, San Diego 1; Chicago Cubs 4, Washington 3, 10 innings; Milwaukee 17, Pittsburgh 3; St. Louis 4, Atlanta 3; Arizona 5, Colorado 3; and San Francisco 5, Philadelphia 1. □



Florida Marlins starting pitcher Josh Johnson throws to first base to put out San Diego Padres' Mat Latos during the third inning of a baseball game Monday, April 26, 2010 in Miami.

Associated Press

NL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 12

Carlos Marmol (1-0) pitched around a two-out double by Adam Dunn in the top of the 10th and recorded his first win since June 14.

Ace-turned-reliever Carlos Zambrano pitched 1 2-3 scoreless innings in his second appearance out of the bullpen and first at Wrigley Field since his removal from the rotation last week.

Federer loses to Gulbis at Rome Masters

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Roger Federer's form dropped drastically as he lost to Ernests Gulbis of Latvia 2-6, 6-1, 7-5 in his opening match at the Rome Masters on Tuesday.

"My game was definitely not up to speed," Federer said. "My serve was not working at all."

It was Federer's first singles match in nearly a month and his first of the clay-court season. The world's top-ranked player took off several weeks after losing in the fourth round of the Sony Ericsson Open in Key Biscayne on March 30.

The 40th-ranked Gulbis fought off nerves at the end and finally closed out the match on his seventh match point.

Federer teamed with Yves Allegro to win a doubles match on Monday at the Foro Italico, but the 16-time Grand Slam champion struggled with his consistency against Gulbis under a light rain.

Federer reached the semifinal here last year and went on to win his first Grand Slam title on clay at the French Open a few weeks later. This year's tournament at Roland Garros begins on May 23.

Federer will play two more tournaments — in Estoril and Madrid — before heading to Paris.

"I hope I can come back from this. That's usually what I do after a loss like this," Federer said. "Sometimes it takes a

loss to wake up and shake you up for your approach the next week. When you always win, sometimes you forget how hard it is. That's why today I don't get too worried about this loss."

Playing inside the tournament's new 10,500-seat stadium, Gulbis appeared nervous at the start and Federer won the opening set easily.

Federer didn't face a break point until the fourth game of the second set, when he missed a forehand wide to end a long rally and hand Gulbis a 3-1 lead. Gulbis then broke again to go up 5-1 when Federer made a series of errors — including a rare overhead miss.

Federer committed 15 unforced errors to Gulbis' eight in the second set alone, and his form in the final set was even worse, missing one routine baseline shot after another.

In all, Federer committed 38 unforced errors to Gulbis' 39, and trailed 20-33 in winners. Federer also struggled with his serve, landing only half of his first attempts to Gulbis' 71 percent.

"On clay you can lose the feeling sometimes," Federer said of his serve. "At one point I tried to go three-quarters speed but that didn't work either, so I just kept going for it and hoping that it would come back eventually, and it didn't unfortunately."

Gulbis double-faulted on



Latvia's Ernests Gulbis returns the ball to Switzerland's Roger Federer at the Rome Masters tennis tournament, in Rome, Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Gulbis won 2-6, 6-1, 7-5.

Associated Press

match point twice and made errors on each of his first six match points before Federer finally hit a backhand into the net to end it.

Gulbis also took Federer to a third set before losing in the quarterfinals in Doha in January, then won his first career title in Delray Beach, Florida, in February. He is coached by Hernan Gummy and credits the Argentine pro with his improved form.

"He has immense power on both sides and one of the fastest serves in the game," Federer said. "I think he's got a great future."

Federer wouldn't blame the cool and damp conditions.

"I started well and the conditions were kind of like the French Open final last year," he said. "Actually, I wasn't too happy that it was slow against a player that likes to end the points quickly." Federer still has the doubles to look forward to here. He and Allegro will next face sixth-seeded Simon Aspelin of Sweden and Paul Hanley of Australia.

"It will give a good chance to forget today and move forward," Federer said. Earlier, Novak Djokovic began his bid to reach a third consecutive Rome final with a quick 6-1, 6-1 win over French opponent Jeremy Chardy.

Also, Lleyton Hewitt ground out a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 win over ninth-seeded Mikhail Youzhny, a positive step in the Australian's comeback from hip surgery.

Victor Hanesu of Romania beat another seeded player, No. 16 Juan Monaco, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

In other matches, Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland easily beat Juergen Melzer of Austria 6-1, 6-2; Feliciano Lopez of Spain advanced past Benjamin Becker of Germany 6-4, 6-3; and Italian wild card Simone Bolelli eliminated German lucky loser Simon Greul 6-4, 6-1. □

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April 2010 Aruba

This month:



Adam Walton is a young dynamic entertainer.

Having toured all around the globe as a musician, singer and entertainer Adam has decided to concentrate on his favourite kind of work - piano bars! Be warned though, don't be misled by his warm humour and easy going conversation, tonight may be the night **he sets the piano on fire** again or any one of a number of other surprises he has in store for you. Adam loves to play the kind of party music that you like to hear and is constantly updating his repertoire to stay **fresh and modern**. If you ask him, Adam may well show you some magic tricks too and don't be too shocked if he puts on his roller blades and skates around the bar. It's all in a night's mayhem when Adam's in town!

Wednesday night is Ladies Champagne Night, from 8:00 till midnight, champagne by the glass at \$4.00, ladies only. Bottle service also available.



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No deal in Brazil

Stability for Aruba's Refinery not secured



ORANJESTAD— News out of Brazil was not encouraging. Minister of Finance and Utilities Mike de Meza returned from the South American powerhouse without a clear commitment of Petrobras to help rescue the Aruba Refinery. Valero, operator of the refinery, has given the government assurance it will keep on its personnel until June. But without a clear solution for Valero's problems of running the refinery here without huge

losses, the survival options are becoming less. Minister de Meza went on a fact finding mission to Brazil, to discuss a possible joint venture between the national petroleum company, Petrobras and Valero. The meetings, arranged by the Dutch government, were cordial, but did not yield the results of a cooperation agreement between the two companies that would ensure the continuance of the refinery. Petrobras offered to review

the possibility based on the results of the elections in Brazil in October, yet, Valero has not given any indication it would be willing to wait that long. Moreover, the business of refining worldwide is under pressure, as demand for oil derivatives have shrunk considerably. Venezuela's Secretary of Energy Georgina Kessel Martinez in fact that the prognosis is that the world of oil refining could improve as late as 2015. This is not something Valero was hoping for and not information that is positive for the survival of the Aruba refinery, which has been put on idle since last year.

Minister Mike de Meza admitted that the market has not improved yet, but refuses to give up on the refinery. He said Valero itself is in communication with the Colombian company Pacific Rubiales Energy. Pacific Rubiales has its own oil sources and is being traded on the Canadian market. It is considered the largest independent exploration and production company of oil and natural gas in Colombia.



According to the Minister, Valero is also holding talks on possible joint venture, and is also considering the possibility to purchase oil from Venezuela. The latter is considered positive for the refinery, as it was built to process Venezuelan crude. This crude is heavy and has high sulfur content, and the Valero Refinery has the capability to get the maximum

use out of this product. Meanwhile, the clock is ticking and it is not clear what Valero would do in June. Parliament has yet to approve modification in the legal status of the refinery which would make it more attractive for selling. The refinery until it's shut down in July of 2009, was good for 12 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of Aruba. □



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Aruba Meets Europe at Tierra Del Sol



WEST PUNT – European Tour Operators on the island Europe convention toured Tierra del Sol Resort, Spa and Country Club, this weekend.



Ingrid De Marchena and Suzanne welcomed the dignitaries on behalf of the PGA Championship Golf Course, and showed them the facility, including Body &

Soul Spa, the Sales Gallery, the Pro Shop and Ventanas del Mar restaurant. Tierra del Sol Resort Spa & Country Club, established in 1995, boasts an 18-hole PGA Golf Course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr, which received a 4 ½ star rating of Golf Digest Places to Play; it is Aruba's only master-planned community and is the most prestigious address on the island.

Guests enjoyed the contemporary Caribbean cuisine of Chef Jim, with a Blackened Red Snapper Fillet, or Keshi Yena as main courses and Quessillo for dessert. The group was invited and escorted by the Aruba Tourism Authority, prepared to do more business with Europe. □



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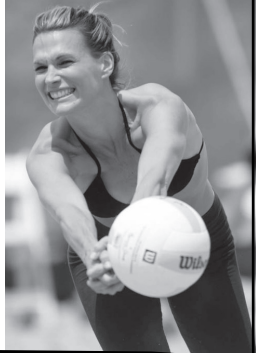
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Promotion Suzuki Swift Car Giveaway At Stellaris Casino April 29th

Queen's Bingo Event offers big JackPot



PALMBEACH—On Thursday April 29, 2010, the Stellaris Casino invites you for the final drawing of the car giveaway promotion "Stellaris Car Spring Special".

Casino guests have the chance to win a brand new Suzuki Swift 2010 and in addition 5,000 florins in total cash prizes. For every 20 points earned by playing the slot machines or 25 points earned at the table games, Stellaris casino guests with a player's card accumulate points and have the chance to win the grand prize. The raffle will start at 9:00 pm with cash prize giveaways. The final drawing of the Suzuki Swift car giveaway will be announced at 11:30 pm. The winner must be present at to receive the Suzuki Swift 2010 car. In honor to celebrate the Dutch Queen's birthday, the Stellaris Casino has a spectacular Queen's Day bingo event on Friday April 30, 2010. Guests have the chance to win 10,000 florins with an additional progressive jackpot with over 110,200

florins if "Bingo" is called within 50 calls. The annual Queen's Bingo event starts at 1:00 pm and bingo cards can be purchased from 10:00 am at the Casino Cage for 15 florins. For every 3 bingo cards you purchase, you will receive the 4th bingo card for free.

As of May 1st, 2010 guests can earn double points every

Monday and Thursday from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, on Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm and from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Additionally triple points can be earned at the Stellaris Casino slot machines every Tuesday from 8:00 pm to 12:00 am.

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& Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool

with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resorts is comprised of ten resorts in seven of the top tropical destinations in the Caribbean and Mexico – Aruba, Cancun, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Puerto Vallarta, St. Kitts and St. Thomas. □



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Palm Beach will be theater for full day of sports fun

Beach Volleyball Tournament at Bugaloe



PALM BEACH - Sunday May 2nd the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is organizing a new edition of its spectacular Beach Volleyball Tournament. Locals and tourists are teaming up to participate in this fun filled tournament that takes place on the white powered sand of Palm Beach right in front of Bugaloe Beach Bar and De Palm Pier (between

RIU Palace and Radisson Resort). There will be 2 team categories FUN (6 players) and ADVANCED (4 players). A whole line up of Aruba's best DJ's will play their tunes while you can enjoy special prices on Amstel Bright and Heineken. Everybody is welcome to visit, even when you are not

playing. The after party takes place at Bugaloe Beach Bar around sunset when the local salsa & merengue hit band Robert Jeand'or will perform live on stage. Bugaloe's event manager Myrthe Veltman says, "It's going to be a fun day in the true Bugaloe tradition. Fun, friends and happiness are



the key elements. What else do you need on a Sunday?" Myrthe rhetorically asks with a smile. The volleyball event starts at 10am and will last whole day. It's already possible to sign up. At www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com

you will find all the details and as well as a registration form. Pictures: Bugaloe Manager Myrthe Veltman, Heineken Representative Jarino Toppenberg en Bugaloe bartender Erik during the closing of the sponsoring agreement. □

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Get dressed up and come to CILO

Enjoy a fabulous Queen's Day cocktail reception

ORANJESTAD - A new tradition is in the making: a veritable Queen's Day cocktail reception, held at CILO City Lounge in the Renaissance Marketplace on Friday, April 30th. The dress code is 'cocktail', so anything chic and spicy goes. CILO will be decked out in orange, the color of the House of Orange of the royal Dutch family. And drinks will include an orange mimosa to toast Queen Beatrix' health with. The cocktail reception is held from 5 to 7 pm; expect surprising orange lunch and dinner specials at CILO during the day on the 30th.

Live music is played by terrific Angelo Koolman, who knows how to play the guitar and sing a good song. Dutch snacks will be passed around during the cocktail reception.

Be present at the birth of a new tradition: the Queen's Day cocktail reception at CILO! □



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HUMAN HINTS

Transform Your Emotional Reactions

Carl Jung has said that wisdom is the ability to state the obvious. I would say that wisdom is the ability to see the obvious in our selves and in our own lives. We should not underestimate the power of self-awareness. If we can master seeing our automatic emotional reactions, we can effortlessly empower our lives by changing them.

It is easy to see emotional patterns in others, but when it comes to our selves, we

can be amazingly blind. A situation arises and our automatic reactions kick in. It's easy to get stuck in the same patterns because we cannot see ourselves. A mirror works because it displays a separate image. Without a separate image to look at, we cannot see our selves.

The good news is that our brain is not designed to stay in blind emotional reaction for an extended time. The initial emotional wave

overtakes us and lingers until it must ultimately subside. After the initial wave passes, we can begin to analyze the trigger and our personal reaction to it. When we are able to analyze our selves, logic will help us focus on a better course of action.

Now that you're more emotionally detached, watch the situation unfold in your mind, as if it were remade as a comedy. You're watching the Comedic Remake based on true events. This takes you out of the situation, and removes the serious tone. As you watch this new comedy, focus on your character. How do you add a comedic twist to what upset you?

Your lighthearted side wrote your character, so it's not too much of a stretch to identify with yourself. When you see yourself as your character, you empower that aspect

of who you are. Now, when the same type of situation arises in the future, you can think of your sitcom-self, and identify with your more lighthearted reactions.

This technique will help separate your emotion from whatever upset you, and will help you see that different reactions produce different outcomes. Use your imagination and have fun with this. It is an easy way to release automatic patterns that might be holding you back. You must decide what your self-defeating patterns are, then use your imagination to change them into empowering patterns. The first step is to lighten up, as described above.

Until Tomorrow...


Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger


Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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PG DIARY OF A WIMPY KID	daily: 12:30	2:45	
matinee:		late show:	

R REPO MEN	daily: 5:30	8:00	
matinee: 12:15	3:00	late show: 11:00	


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ORANJESTAD - Casa Tua Barcelona's Flamenco Show is the spot to be tonight with Angela Croes TONIGHT and then again on Friday. On Thursday enjoy the amazing sounds Kavey Yarzagaray.

Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with these fantastic live shows! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin



with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



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On the eve of the restaurant's 10th anniversary

Amazonia Churrascaria introduces a new dining option

Palm Beach – The crew at Amazonia Churrascaria is gearing up for the restaurant's 10th anniversary. Almost one decade ago, the authentic Brazilian concept of Rodizio Steakhouse offering continuous dining caught literal fire as a troop of waiters armed with mega skewers started roaming the colorful and friendly new indoor & outdoor dining room of Amazonia Churrascaria, introducing a fresh and novel style of dining to enthusiastic locals and visitors.

Having enjoyed instant success, Amazonia Churrascaria became a household name, a favorite place for family gatherings, celebrations or just great food. "Now, after ten years," says Hubert Solagnier, restaurant manager, "it is time for a new product, an a la carte option, designed to satisfy small eaters, and patrons with distinct menu favorites."

Diners may now opt for the traditional, continuous parade of gauchos, slicing more than 14 cuts of grilled beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, or a new a la carte dinner option, where their favorite skewer – from Grilled Pineapple, to Parmesan Pork, Filet Mignon Wrapped in Bacon, Lamb Chop, or the Mixed Amazonia Skewer with

tenderloin and vegetables, and the Passion Skewer with six jumbo shrimp -- is delivered to the table, seasoned to perfection and slow roasted over open flame, in the restaurant's signature style.

Both dining styles are accompanied by an extravagant forty-item, frequently changing seasonal salad bar where patrons can keep sampling until they beg for mercy, and a delicious array of tasty sides. With two choices, an all-inclusive feast and an a la

carte delight, diners can now better tailor the Amazonia Churrascaria culinary adventure, to their liking, combined with the restaurant's extensive award-winning Wine Spectator wine list, well stocked bar and terrific selection of Cuban cigars.



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Jamie & Brett become one in paradise



EAGLE – On April 17, 2010, Jamie Gillig & Brett Thomas became one under Aruba's sun. The lovebirds met June 2008 through a mutual friend and have been inseparable ever since.

Brett proposed in Chicago in September 2009 and the wedding plans for Aruba

began. They choose Aruba's One Happy Island because of the beautiful Caribbean setting. Aruba Weddings for You coordinated their wedding to perfection.

The beach ceremony took place on the pristine sand along the soft rolling turquoise waves with 10 loved ones who witnessed the union of marriage. Robert Gibson delivered the romantic sermon as Jamie & Brett exchanged vows and rings. Following the beach blessing the guests and newlyweds each made a wish on a special stone and tossed it in the ocean for good luck.

The "Once in a lifetime photo

shoot" with Bella Aruba Photography was gorgeous with the orange hues as a backdrop. The guests and newlyweds toasted to an everlasting love, cut the wedding cake and dined at the Red Parrott.

"It means the world to us that our family members and friends could join us in our special day" stated Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and added "Many thanks to Divi Resort staff, Lorraine and Marjorie, our coordinators in making our wedding-moon one to remember." □

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



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Around the mid-1900s the expression "time-out" came from a number of sports in which it signifies an interruption in play where the officials stop the clock, for purposes of rest, making a substitution, or consultation. The concept quickly caught on in different areas as in discipline techniques for children, helping women cope, and in the workplace. Perhaps we can extend the areas where time out can be used.

Time out is a very effective discipline technique and will work with children as young as 18-24 months old. By using this method of discipline you are giving your child time out from positive reinforcement, which includes any parental reaction such as yelling or other discipline after they misbehave. Prepare a time out chair, which can be a chair in any room of the house, a space on the floor, the child's bed, or any place where he is isolated from interaction with others. Use a kitchen timer to count down your child's punishment time, which is usually one minute per year of age.

Time Out for Women has become an institution in several countries where women of all ages meet regularly for encouragement, worship, prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Activities range from guest organized events to crafts and conversation. It is hoped by the sponsors that during these retreats days filled with messages of inspiration from respected authors and music artists, women will learn, will laugh, and, hopefully, their spirits and sights will be lifted so

they feel rejuvenated for the days ahead.

Time out for the workplace is taking on a sense of urgency in several areas. There is a growing sense that there needs to be a time out called for executives that are over-connected to their work through the gadgets of mobile technology. Called the "wireless leash syndrome" we realize that mobile phones and handheld devices have made companies more productive; but new findings reveal that those who stay connected to work around the clock can hurt their well-being and their family lives. No kidding.

Some companies are forcing their employees to take several days vacation in order to improve their profit margin. Many employees must take the time without pay because they do not have enough vacation hours accrued. Additionally, it has been estimated that managers spend at least 25 percent of their time resolving workplace conflicts – causing lowered office performance. In the resolution of a conflict managers are resorting to making employees "take time out" to lower charged emotions that may interfere with arriving at a productive resolution.

In our clinic we see many of our patients take "time out" when they come in for an acupuncture session. Acupuncture, an ancient Chinese therapy that is becoming more widespread in the West uses various procedures, such as heat and pressure but mainly fine needles, to stimulate points on the body to relieve pain

Time Out

By: Dr Carlos Viana

by rebalancing the flow of energy.

Acupuncture is very safe when practiced by trained acupuncturists. In the new millennia the number of acupuncturists in the United States was estimated about 11,000 practitioners without Western medical degrees and 3,000 acupuncturists with medical degrees, by 2005 the figures doubled and is expected to quadruple by 2015. This trend is stimulated by people in the West realizing that acupuncture works.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has found acupuncture, effective in treating chronic pain, back pain and headache. In our clinic we have developed a treatment protocol which helps lower tooth sensitivity and the pain, pressure and swelling after oral surgery. Many clinical trials have found that acupuncture is effective for treating vomiting after chemotherapy or surgery, and nausea associated with pregnancy.

Many of our patients come in for their twenty or thirty minute acupuncture session to relieve pain. However, since we insist they turn their cell phones off or to the 'silent' mode, they allow themselves to let go and with the aid of the acupuncture needles quickly relax. After their sessions many realize that the treatment has gone beyond pain reduction and they feel a balance and harmony in their body, mind and spirit. In



acupuncture treatment I select specific acupoints based on my diagnosed root cause. Needles inserted into these acupoints cause movement of energy. This energy movement causes blood and energy to flow smoothly within the body, breaking down blockages, and causing symptoms to mitigate or disappear and the body to begin the healing of the root cause.

This is a simplistic view of how acupuncture works but, never the less, accurate. Acupuncture is also very powerful in building and maintaining a strong immune system, and releasing blockages that cause emotional problems. We do have busy executives and management personal who know the advantage of stepping out for a short break to "distress" with an acupuncture session. They have found a secret to maintaining balance and then return back to work or family refreshed. Many more people could benefit greatly from an acupuncture "time out".

Get The Point! Commiserating with others facing similar demands and catching your physical and spiritual breath by taking "time out" is a great way to regain your balance.

Many people feeling "stressed out" think the origin of their problems are found in work, children, and relationship issues and are surprised when I diagnose an energy imbalance in their kidneys or liver. Receiving acupuncture treatments for their organ imbalance puts their other stresses in perspective and a realization that the problems are more easily managed when balance is restored. Are you ready for a healthy "time out"?

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com Now, also OPEN in Noord, call for an appointment.

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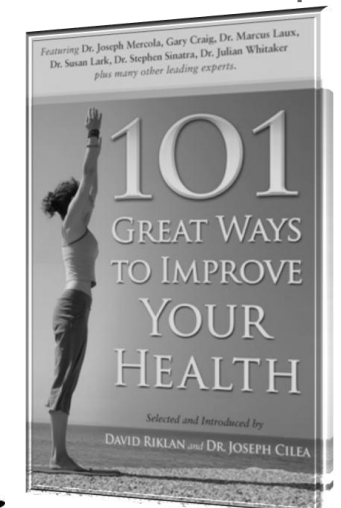
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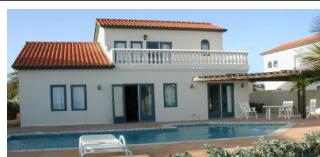
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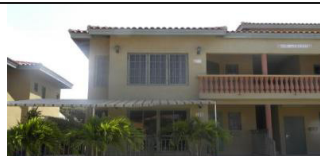
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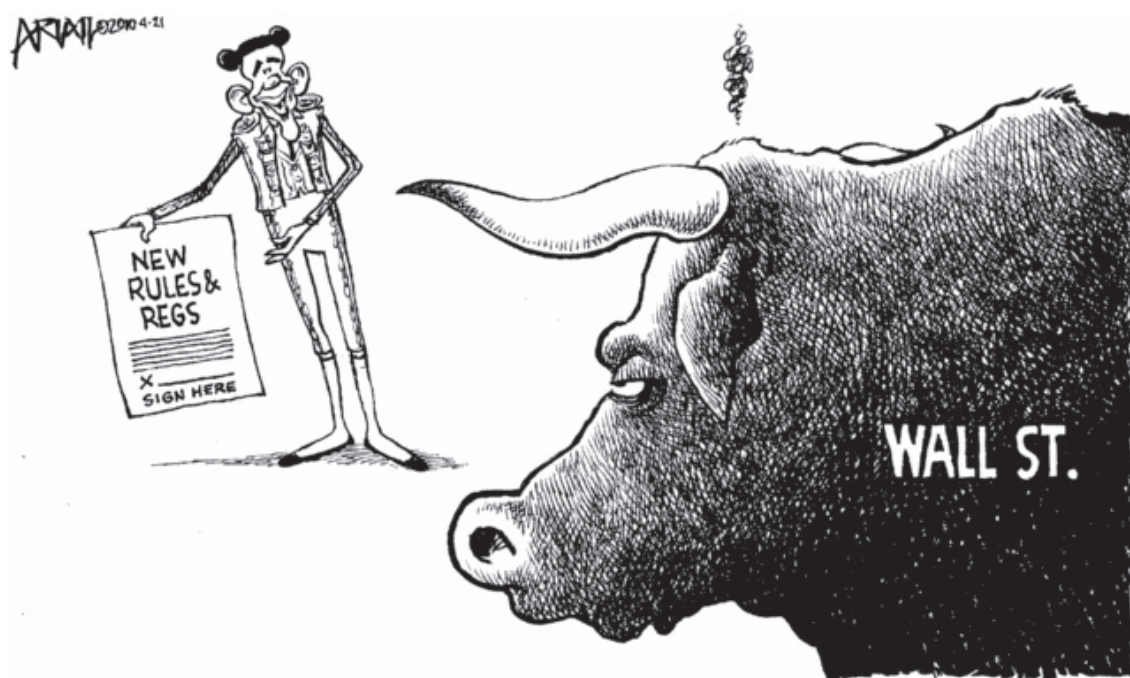
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The weak spot in the financial reform bill

Democrats are right. The Senate needs a full and rigorous debate on financial reform. But any debate must tackle one of the most critical issues not yet resolved from the 2007-09 crisis on Wall Street:

Should big banks be left big?

President Obama says yes. He backs the main Democratic bill in the Senate that would rely largely on regulators to use a new set of enforcement tools to better manage the risks that financial institutions take. He's less worried about megabanks, even if they are "too big to fail."

Big banks are not inherently risky to the financial system, say Obama administration officials. Rather, the main issue is whether a bank has gone too far with bad loans, extended credit, or flimsy investments. If so, new tools would allow regulators to dismantle a big bank quickly without a taxpayer bailout. In addition, big banks would be required to keep more backup money on hand as a cushion for a crisis.

Even a smaller bank can bring down Wall Street, as the collapse of Lehman Brothers nearly did in 2007, if their risks are woven widely into other institutions. And besides, the United States needs big banks to be competitive in a world of big banks.

These are all good arguments for the Democratic bill, but such an approach relies heavily on two assumptions:

1. That future regulators will have the wisdom and experience to spot risks in banks before they implode, as investments in subprime mortgages did.
2. That future presidents and lawmakers will not go soft on enforcement because of campaign donations from the largest firms on Wall Street. If past is prologue, those assumptions could be as risky as the actions taken by Wall Street. And that is why a long debate on financial reform is needed in the Senate – especially if it takes up an amendment offered by a small group of Democrats who want to place a strict cap on the

size of financial firms.

Their amendment, known as the Safe Banking Act and sponsored by Sens. Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Ted Kaufman of Delaware, relies on the idea that "too big to fail is too big to exist." It would cap the size of banks if they have deposits as high as 10 percent of the gross domestic product. It would also limit the size of their nondeposit assets. Any nonbank financial firm would have its liabilities limited to 3 percent of GDP.

This idea of a cap on bank size isn't new. The 1970 Bank Holding Act gives such power to the Federal Reserve but it has been only loosely enforced. Under pressure from Congress, bank regulators have been reluctant to restrain the growth of banks.

The result? A large concentration of banking power – or half of the nation's economic output – in just four firms: Bank of America, Wells Fargo, JPMorgan Chase, and Citigroup own half of the mortgages and issue most of the credit cards.

And that concentration is getting worse, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas President Richard W. Fisher. In the past two decades, he said in a recent speech, the share of industry assets for the 10 largest banks climbed from nearly 25 percent in 1990 to about 60 percent in 2009.

Mr. Fisher backs a cap on bank size, and last year, former Fed chairman Alan Greenspan hinted at his support when he said: "If they're too big to fail, they're too big." Mr. Greenspan also pointed to the 1911 breakup of Standard Oil by the trust-busting President Teddy Roosevelt. The resulting parts, he noted, proved more valuable than the bigger firm.

Indeed, the question of bank size is as old as the Republic. The issue divided Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, and helped lead to the formation of political parties. It also led to the rise of political populism under Andrew Jackson, and in a strange way, unites parts of today's left

and the "tea party" right.

Under the Obama-backed bill, big banks would get special treatment: If a bank begins to falter and seems headed for bankruptcy court, regulators would step in and supposedly dissolve it in order to prevent a larger impact on the financial system. But doubts persist about whether government would actually do that. This leaves the impression that this measure could probably end up saving big banks.

If that impression persists, then today's big banks could become even bigger. Why? Because creditors would believe big banks are safe from failure. What's more, smaller banks would try to become big.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says he will work to limit the size of banks. But as Dallas Fed chief Fisher says, "It takes an enormous amount of political courage to say we are going to limit size and limit leverage." A law mandating limits would buck up regulators.

Fisher also doubts if big banks are even needed, pointing to the financial problems in Japan, which has had some of the world's largest banks. Also, a report by the executive director of the Bank of England finds that banks don't enjoy economies of scale after they reach \$100 billion in assets. (The biggest US banks have \$2 trillion in assets. And three banks – JPMorgan, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America – each already exceed the proposed cap of 10 percent of GDP.)

So far, this debate over bank size has been largely waged behind closed doors in Congress and the White House. But if the Brown-Kaufman amendment can be put on the floor of the Senate for a vote, then the people will see whether their lawmakers do really trust fallible regulators to get this right – or whether a cap must be enshrined in law.

It won't be easy to find the right size for banks to make sure one bank failure won't bring Wall Street down. Congress needs to provide a firmer guide to regulators than the main Democratic bill does now. □

Cemex perdió 341 millones de dólares en el primer trimestre del año

México - La compañía mexicana Cemex, una de las tres mayores productoras de cemento del mundo, obtuvo una pérdida neta de 341 millones de dólares en el primer trimestre de 2010, lo que supuso una caída del 458% frente a los 61 millones que perdió en el mismo periodo del año anterior, anunció ayer la empresa.

Cemex, que presentó retrocesos en casi todos sus indicadores de desempeño, explicó que la caída en el beneficio neto se debió "a una menor utilidad de operación, mayores gastos financieros, un aumento en otros gastos netos, y un gasto en impuestos comparado con un ingreso relacionado a impuestos diferidos durante el primer trimestre de 2009".

Sin embargo, esta pérdida fue mitigada por una ganancia cambiaria y una menor pérdida en instrumentos financieros, señaló la firma con sede en la ciudad de Monterrey, la cual emplea a 46.870 personas, 4.133 menos que en los primeros tres meses del año pasado.

El beneficio bruto de la empresa alcanzó los 820 millones de dólares, 15% menos que los registrados en el mismo lapso del año anterior.

Entre enero y marzo, el beneficio antes de impuestos, depreciación e intereses (EBITDA) ascendió a 515 millones de dólares, lo que supuso una caída del 23% con respecto a los 667 millones del mismo lapso trimestral del año anterior.

La cementera explicó que la contracción del EBITDA fue a causa de "una menor contribución de nuestras operaciones en los Estados Unidos, España y México".

En tanto, las ventas de Cemex en el primer trimestre de 2010 disminuyeron un 10%, y se situaron en 3.043 millones de dólares, caída que fue un resultado de menores volúmenes vendidos de concreto, cemento y agregados "en España, Estados Unidos y México y menores precios principalmente de nuestras operaciones en Estados Unidos y España".

Sin embargo, las ventas netas de la empresa crecieron en el periodo 4% en el Caribe, Centro y Sur América, y un 10% en Asia. □

Irán incrementa presencia de tropas en Venezuela, asegura el Pentágono

Teheran - Irán está aumentando su fuerza de choque contra operativos paramilitares en Venezuela, mientras secretamente avanza con el suministro de armas y explosivos a los talibanes y otros insurgentes en Afganistán e Irak, según el primer informe del Pentágono al Congreso sobre militares de Teherán.

El informe sobre el poderío militar de Irán provee nuevos detalles sobre el grupo conocido formalmente como el Cuerpo de Guardia Revolucionaria Islámica-Fuerza Qods (Guardianes de la Revolución-QF), las tropas de choque islamistas desplegadas en todo el mundo para promover los intereses iraníes.

La unidad está alineada con terroristas en Irak, Afganistán, Israel, África del Norte y América Latina, y el informe advierte de que las fuerzas de EE.UU. podrían enfrentar a estas unidades paramilitares iraníes en el futuro.

La fuerza Qods 'mantiene las capacidades operativas en todo el mundo', dice el informe, agregando que 'está bien establecida en el Oriente Medio y África del Norte y los últimos años han incrementado su presencia en América Latina, particularmente Venezuela'.

El informe se convierte en la primera advertencia oficial del gobierno iraní sobre sus actividades paramilitares en el Hemisferio Occidental.

También destaca los vínculos entre Irán y el gobierno venezolano de Hugo Chávez, quien ha sido acusado de respaldar a los terroristas marxistas en Colombia. □

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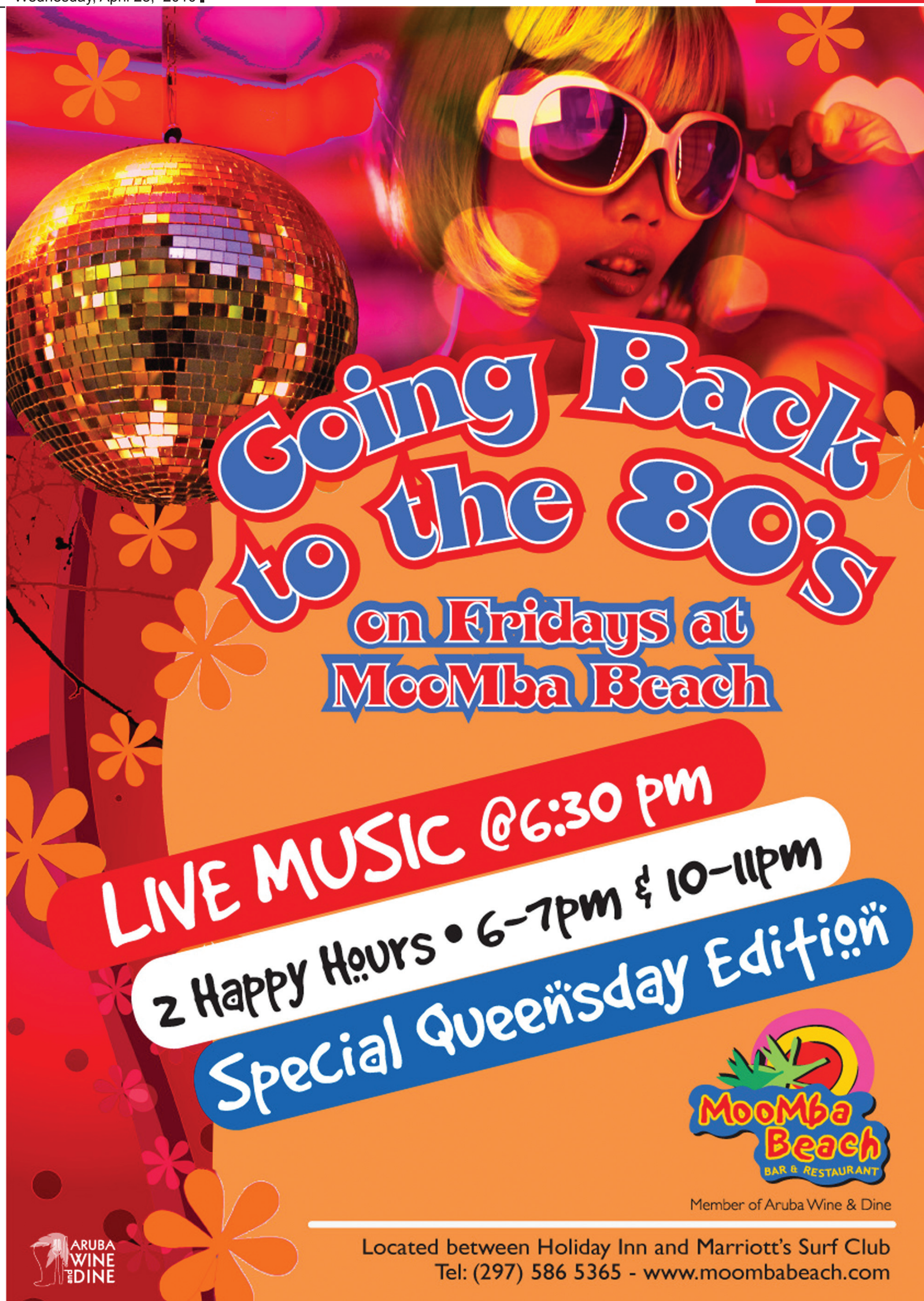
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